

REMARKS

New counsel has been assigned to continue prosecution of this file. The § 112 rejections of claims 15-27 are moot as those claims have been canceled without prejudice.

The indicated allowance of claims 7-9 is noted with thanks. Applicant has chosen to leave such claims unamended with the hope of convincing the Examiner that claim 1 is novel over Stephen USP 5,327,965. Claim 1 features a hanger body having a load segments, an actuating ring and slip segments and a tapered bowl. The load segments enter the annular groove in the wellhead to support the body and the interaction of the slip segments with the bowl ostensibly supports a tubular extending through the hanger although a tubular is not an element in the claim.

In the reference, the grapple mechanism in Figure 1 comprises a body 29 and slip 31 that travels on a series of tapers. That structure supports the tubular off of a previously installed hanger seal 33. That is a separate structure from the seal assembly above. The load ring 61 only supports the seal assembly above it. The weight of tubular 25 is on slips 31 not on load ring 61. The hanger is suspended on seal 33 not on load ring 61.

This reference does not feature the recited components of claim 1 on a body. The casing hanger of the reference is not supported from an annular groove in the wellhead; rather the seal assembly is supported by load ring 61. This reference in no way anticipates claim 1.

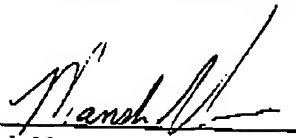
Claim 10 was amended to correct it as to where the actuation ring finds support. The change had nothing to do with the cited reference Fowler USP 4,416,472. Here again claim 10 recites a load ring to enter an annular groove in the wellhead to support the hanger. Fowler doesn't do this. Fowler has a huge load shoulder 65 on which surface 72 of the hanger lands on for full support. Ring 105 simply locks in the supported position after contact between surfaces

64 and 72, it supports no weight. It is specifically this prior art design that claim 10 improves on. By having a shoulder to catch an actuation ring to in turn move the load ring into the annular groove allows a larger bore in the wellhead because the shoulder in the wellhead does not need to be strong enough to hold the hanger weight. This reference in no way anticipates claim 10.

Claims 33-41 are new. They add no new matter. With respect to claims 33-36, they are simply more focused on the embodiments of Figures 2 and 4. Note the small shoulder in the wellhead shown in Figure 8 that catches the actuation ring in either embodiment. The use of such a small shoulder allows a bigger bore in the wellhead than prior designs such as Fowler, for example. Similarly, new claims 37-41 recite material not disclosed by the cited references or the prior art in general. Allowance of these and the other remaining claims is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 23, 2006


Manish Vyas
Reg. No. 54,516
(713) 939-2343

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Cooper Cameron
Patent Services Department
PO Box 1212
Houston, Texas 77251-1212
Attention: Mr. Manish Vyas